

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Notes

February 21, 2017

ATTENDEES

Members

Jean Cavanaugh
David Gill
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
Chris Myers (DPS), ex officio
David Myers
Frank Parker
Kathleen Samiy
Doug Sievers (WSSC), ex officio
Matthew Wessel

Absent Members

Carole Ann Barth
Dan Landry
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio
Jeff Schwartz
Rosanne Skirble

Other Attendees

Minutes

The Forest Conservation Advisory Committee met as scheduled on February 21, 2017. Quorum was not met.

All members were reminded to complete the Open Meeting training by the March first deadline.

The committee reviewed information about SB29/HB 617 and SB365/HB599, both concerning forest and trees.

The committee reviewed a draft letter to the County Executive and County Council requesting funding and resources for trees and forests across the County. We agreed to revise it to link the loss of ash trees and mitigation of these losses with the overall canopy coverage. Further, the letter will be revised to reference support for all agencies impacted by the damage from emerald ash borers. Jean will revise and circulate the draft.

The committee discussed the annual meeting with the County Executive. Given this year's town hall format, the committee opted not to attend. The committee considered sending questions and would circulate them by email.

During the March meeting, the committee plans to finalize the letter with recommendations for the budget. Other potential subjects for the March meeting include an update on the revisions to the environmental guidelines from the Planning Department, review of a specific plant such as the Three Oaks Drive project, and a review of the master plan process to see if and where the committee can provide meaningful input.

The tentative agenda for the April meeting is to discuss the tree impacts of the Purple Line with MTA's environmental supervisor assigned to the project. Jean will make this request through MTA.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2017, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. It will be held in the small conference room at the DEP offices. If the County's schools are closed for the day, are dismissed early, or if after school activities are cancelled due to weather conditions, the FCAC meeting will be cancelled.